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### Summary of Black Theatre

What is interesting is that long before Black people knew that they were performers, they had to get in front of the majority race and entertain them. There are countless stories of slaves having to entertain their masters by performing various skits and musical performances. Later, we see other Black theatre aspects like vaudeville shows, and big music hall performances. Even when theatre turned to mimicking Black people, there was still a strong Black influence. Soon, Black lives were finally appreciated in theatre and film with works like *Imitation of Life*. Essentially, Black people have been a large part of theatre for a long time even if the works do not represent them well.